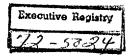
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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 18, 1972



Mr. Richard Helms Director, Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helms:

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF

ARTHUR M. KUHL, CHIEF CLERK

I am writing in regard to a report in the September 13th issue of the New York Times by Tad Szulc, a copy of which is enclosed. The report refers to "separate but concurring" studies prepared late last month by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency reporting that the North Vietnamese can sustain the fighting in South Vietnam "at the present rate" for the next two years despite American bombing.

The New York Times story stated that: "The substance of the reports was made available to the New York Times today by highly placed intelligence officials." I would appreciate it if you could arrange to have the Central Intelligence Agency report, on which Mr. Szulc's article was based, also made available to me.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

## Approved For Release 2005/08/12: CIA-RDP80R01720R000700100024-4

## Manoi Heli Alie to Fight 2 Years of Present Rate

By TAD SZULC Sound to The Fer York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 official, along with others inter-This country's two principal inviewed this week, said, how-teiligence agencies have con-ever, that if the North had not cluded in recent reports sub-been heavily bombed, the North mitted to the White House that Vistnamese could have doubled Hanol can sustain the righting their operations and would in South Vistnam "at the pres-have been spared heavy losses.

in South Victnam "at the present rate" for the next two years despite the heavy American bumbing of North Victnam.

In separate but concurring reports propared late last month, the Contral Intelligence agencies said in their reports, which gence Agency and the Defense were prepared for the National Intelligence Americal Colored Security Council, that the overgence Agency and the Detensel were prepared for the National Intelligence Agency declared Security Council, that the overthat although the heavy bombing to the North since last April date have been disappointing had been successful in hitting hecouse of North Vietnamese fiesignated targets, it had failed and tactics" in keeping troops to maningfully slow the flow and supplies moving despite the of men and equipment to South air attacks. The substance of

A high-ranking intelligence Continued on Page 12, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

the reports was made available to The New York Times today by highly placed intelligence officials.

These officials, citing daily intelligence estimates as well as the bombing reports, said that all the indications were that the Communists were preparing new "high-point" offensives throughout South Vietnam within 30 days

Following are the highlights of the current intelligence esti-mates and findings made avail-able by the intelligence officiais:

CSome 20,000 fresh North Vietnamese troops have infilipower.

The officials said that the the last six weeks, making an approximate total of 100,000 regular soldiers there. Only one

regular soldiers there. Only one training brigade is said to remain in North Vietnam.

The North Vietnamese now have the highest number of regular troops in the Mekong River delta, southwest of Saigon, since the start of the war. The total was estimated at 20,000 to 30,000 men compared with 3,000 a year ago. Most of the infiliration has occurred since the start of the Communist offensive March 30—and intelligence officials said that the delta now was "our biggest problem," as pacification programs had become seriously threatened. grams had become seriously threatened.

CA third petroleum pipeline

has been completed between the Chinese frontier railroad terminal of Pingsiang and Hanoi. The work began in May,

after the United States mined Halp one herbor, but the com-piction of the third-pipeline be-

ing the reports of the two agencies, said that it was virtually impossible for air strikes to cut the pipelines, which are four inches in diameter. Two officials said that whenever a are said to indicate that mupipeline was hit, North Vietnamics depots or loaded trucks case technicians turned it off, have been hit, while other target pumping stations while ropid gets have been under attack repairs were made.

As for railways from China they taid, the North Vietnameses have to a large extent toler were based on the denauticized the effects of the playment of troops southward, bombing by marshaling all available rolling stock and manpower.

The officials said that the officials said that the officials said that the officials said that the maste and information from defectors and prisoners of war.

North Vietnamese "ant tactics"

The conclusion reached in telligence agencies, off-seld, was that the "ant mit." used in the movement

after the United States mined Halp ong harbor, but the completion of the third-pipeline breams known only in recent days.

\*\*The North Victnamese have built additional pipelines southward from Hanot to supply their forces in South Vietnam. One of them reaches down to the Ashau Valley.

Intilizence officials, discussing the reports of the two agencies, said that it was virtually impossible for air strikes to cut the pipelines which are ward.

featers and prisoners of war. These officials emphasized

what they termed "a major offort" by the Communists to bring troops and supplies into the Mekong Delta through Cambodia's Chup plantation area, the so-called Parrot's beack area of Cambodia, which juts into South Victnam west of Safson, and Route I, the main highway from Saigen to Pnompenh, Cambodia.

United States intelligence estimates are that since the

estimates are that since the start of the Communist often sive at the end of March in the northern part of South Vietnams, the North Vietnamsse and the Victoong Fave lost 100,000 dated on the confession of South Vietnams, the South Vietnams is put at 25,000 to 30,000.

Ent intelligence of the commission of the head of the part of the south Vietnams to the put at 25,000 to 30,000.